CLAIMS

1. An adhesive comprising an organic anhydride component in an amount effective to improve the set speed of the adhesive.

2. The adhesive of claim 1 wherein the organic anhydride component is an alkenyl succinic anhydride.

3. The adhesive of claim 2 wherein the alkenyl succinic anhydride is octenyl succinic anhydride.

4. The adhesive of claim 3 wherein the adhesive has been crosslinked.

5. The adhesive of claim 4 wherein the organic anhydride component comprises a crosslinked carrier starch containing octenyl succinic anhydride groups.

6. The adhesive of claim 3 comprising ethylene vinyl acetate.

7. The adhesive of claim 3 comprising starch.

8. The adhesive of claim 6 further comprising polyvinyl alcohol.

9. A method of increasing the set speed of an adhesive comprising adding to the adhesive an organic anhydride component in an amount effective to improve the set speed of the adhesive.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the organic anhydride component is octenyl succinic anhydride.

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising adding a crosslinking agent.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein the organic anhydride component comprises a crosslinked carrier starch containing octenyl succinic anhydride groups.

13. An article of manufacture comprising the adhesive of claim 5.

14. An article of manufacture comprising the adhesive of claim 8.

15. A method for bonding materials together which comprises applying the adhesive composition of claim 1 to a first substrate, bringing a second substrate in contact with the adhesive composition applied to the first substrate, and subjecting the applied composition to conditions which will allow the composition to cool and form a set bond.